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### Montana State University awarded National Science Foundation grant

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montana State University has been awarded a \$13,900 National Science Foundation grant to continue for two years a study that has important implications for Montana forest and game management.

The "Phytosociological Study of Forest Communities" was begun with NSF support two years ago under the direction of Dr. James R. Habeck of the botany faculty.

The basic objective of the research is an accurate description of forests of northwestern Montana, according to Dr. Habeck. Information is being collected on kinds and numbers of forest plants and on their response to environmental factors.

Dr. Habeck points out that knowledge of the ecology of unmanaged forests will help forest and game managers evaluate the results of their work in managed forests. He said the study is also expected to provide data that will enable natural-resource managers to assess more accurately the changes brought about by lumbering activities and by over-utilization of game animals.

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